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Blackburn  
Rural District Council

ANNUAL  
**REPORT**  
FOR 1950

**R. C. WEBSTER,**  
*Medical Officer of Health*

**G. R. WHITE,**  
*Senior Sanitary Inspector*



# ANNUAL REPORT ON THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR 1950.

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*Vice-Chairman:*

D. SMITH, Esq., J.P.

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## Staff.

*Medical Officer of Health:*

R. C. WEBSTER, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.

*Senior Sanitary Inspector:*

G. R. WHITE, M.S.I.A., M.R.S.I.  
Certificate, Meat Inspector.

*Rodent Operative:* J. COLLINGE.

42, Wellington Street (St. John's),  
Blackburn.

November, 1951.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
BLACKBURN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you the Annual Report for the year 1950.

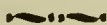
There is little that I can add to the Report itself, but I would take this opportunity in my first report of expressing to the authority my thanks for their having entrusted to me the appointment of Medical Officer of Health. To the Clerk of the Council, Senior Sanitary Inspector, and to the other members of the staff, I would like to express thanks for the manner in which they have welcomed me to their circle and for the co-operation they have shown me throughout the year.

Yours obediently,

R. C. WEBSTER,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.



Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19,472
Rateable Value (1st April, 1950)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£82,617
Estimated Product of 1d. Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£328
Population, Census 1931	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,232
Resident Population, mid-1950									
(Registrar-General's Estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13,330
Death Rate per 1,000 of the Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.4
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.1

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Blackburn Rural District lies to the North, West and South of the County Borough of Blackburn and its population of 13,330 live in two different types of community. The large parishes adjacent to Blackburn are urban in character, although each still retains its separate community life. The rest of the area is dotted with small villages truly rural in type. Most of the area lies in the Ribble Valley and is given over to pasture and meadowland.

The Ordnance Datum varies from 150 to 1,050.

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are agriculture, cotton weaving and spinning, paper making and glazed brickmaking.

The controls on the building of houses by private enterprise and the high costs of labour and materials have halted, for the time being, the growing tendency of town dwellers to move into the area. There is no doubt that this outward movement of population from the towns has suffered only a temporary setback.

### Vital Statistics.

There were 104 live births and 4 still births registered during 1950 and 154 deaths from all causes. The birthrate has decreased from 11.0 to 9.1 per thousand population and is well below the rate for England and Wales (15.8). The deathrate has increased from 10.5 to 11.4 per thousand population and compares with the rate for England and Wales which is 11.6

The main causes of death were heart disease, cancer and vascular disease of the nervous system. It is interesting to note that 69% of all deaths took place at the age of 65 and over, 36% at 75 or over and 7% at 85 or over.

## **Infectious Disease.**

There were 135 cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year, and the largest number were of Measles (77) Whooping Cough (17) and Scarlet Fever (14). Nine cases of Infectious Disease were removed to hospitals of neighbouring towns, namely:— Blackburn (8) Preston (1).

### **SCARLET FEVER.**

Scarlet Fever was chiefly a disease of school life, most of the cases occurring between the ages of 5 and 15. All cases were mild in type and there were no deaths. 7 cases were treated in hospital.

### **MEASLES and WHOOPING COUGH.**

Measles affected all ages up to the age of 15 while Whooping Cough was more predominantly a disease of the pre-school years.

### **TUBERCULOSIS.**

There were 8 new cases notified in 1950 compared with 12 in 1949. 6 of these were pulmonary in type, 2 of them being male patients. There were 7 deaths in 1950 compared with 4 in 1949, and 4 were pulmonary cases. At the end of December, there were 52 cases on the register, a decrease of 3 since the end of 1949.

### **INFANTILE PARALYSIS.**

One case of Infantile Paralysis was notified—a boy aged 3 years.

## **Water Supplies.**

Most of the Blackburn Rural District is within the "Area of Supply" of the County Borough of Blackburn. The Parish of Eccleshill is served by the Borough of Darwen and Belthorn village in the parish of Yate and Pickup Bank is served by the Urban District of Oswaldtwistle. Part of the parish of Mellor is served by the Mellor Water Company which obtains water from boreholes and from the Preston Rural District. The Mellor Water Company continues to experience difficulty in maintaining an adequate supply and some houses in Mellor are without water at certain times during the day.

A scheme for the supply of water to parts of the parishes of Mellor and Ramsgreave was prepared by the Council's Consultant Engineer and the work was commenced in 1950. It is anticipated that water will be laid on to the mains before the end of 1951. The scheme provides for an extension of the Blackburn Corporation mains and the provision of a booster plant. Owing to the completion of 22 Council houses at Mellor it was necessary to carry out during 1949, a temporary scheme of laying mains and connecting to the Preston Rural District Council mains at Mellor Brook. Water



is being pumped to a temporary supply tank at a point above the Council houses so as to provide a supply by gravitation. The mains of this temporary scheme are so laid as to form part of the comprehensive scheme for Mellor.

Most of the piped supplies in the district are conveyed to a point over the kitchen sink and there is only one standpipe in the area, that is in Barker Lane, Mellor. This pipe supplies approximately 23 houses and was installed during 1945 as a temporary arrangement pending extensions of the Blackburn Corporation mains within that area.

It will be seen from the figures in the table appended to this report that only the parish of Tockholes is without a supply of water from public mains. Tockholes is a scattered parish and being at a considerable elevation cannot be supplied by gravity from either the Blackburn or Darwen authorities in whose statutory areas the parish is situated. About one third of the dwellings in the parish are unfit for human habitation and quite a number of the dwellings comprise a gathering of hutments erected after the 1914-1918 war.

Routine sampling of water from both private and public supplies is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector.

### Housing.

It will be seen from the figures given in the table of statistics that there is still a long waiting list for houses. The figure now stands at 297 and the number of applications made each year exceed the rate of new houses built during the year.

Action taken under the Housing Acts to relieve conditions brought to light by the Rural Housing Survey has been very limited. However, the time has now come to consider seriously the re-housing of tenants living in unfit houses, particularly where there are young families, and the demolition of those premises should be enforced so that such sub-standard accommodation is eliminated from the district.

### National Assistance Act, 1948.

No action has been taken by the Council under section 47 of this act.

### Local Health Services.

The Public Health Services provided by the Lancashire County Council are controlled locally by Divisional Health Executives composed of local representatives. The School Health Services are controlled by Divisional Education Executives also composed of local representatives. A Divisional Medical Officer operates both the County Council's Public Health Services and the School Medical Services, and is responsible to the respective Executives.

Blackburn Rural District lies in Health Division No. 5.

Divisional Medical Officer :

R. C. Webster, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.

Offices: 19, St. James' Street, Accrington.

Telephone No.: Accrington 34223.

Assistant Divisional Medical Officers :

J. O. Millar, M.D., D.P.H., D.R.C.O.G.

G. Higgins, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

J. Katz, M.D., D.P.H.

C. Royle, M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H.

The Nursing Staff includes Health Visitors, School Nurses, Midwives and District Nurses. In addition, there are the specially qualified Matrons and Nursing Staffs of Day Nurseries.

Services operated by the Lancashire County Council include: Ambulances, Clinics (Ante-natal, Child Welfare), School (Minor Ailment) Clinics, Dental Clinics, Orthopaedic Clinics, Ophthalmic Clinics, Ear, Nose and Throat Clinics, U.V.R. (Artificial sunlight) Clinics, Immunisation Clinics, Child Guidance Clinics.

The provision of clinics for a rural area presents special difficulties. In areas with scattered populations there obviously are problems in providing a full service. These are realised and various solutions are under active consideration.

*Ambulances and Sitting Cars.* This service is provided under the National Health Service Act without charge. Residents in Blackburn Rural District are served by Blackburn County Borough Ambulances (by an arrangement between the County Council and Blackburn) EXCEPT certain parishes:—

(a) *Tockholes, Yate and Pickup Bank* are served by the County Ambulance Service from *Darwen*.

(b) *Billington* is served by the County Ambulance Service from *Gt. Harwood*.

Tel. Nos.: Blackburn 44130. Darwen 48 or 694. Gt. Harwood 3294.

In general a doctor's certificate of need of ambulance or sitting car is necessary.



*Ante-Natal Clinics.* Those most conveniently situated for residents in Blackburn Rural District are held at:—

*Darwen* (Civic Health Centre, Union Street).  
Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons and Thursday morning.

*Oswaldtwistle* (119 Union Road).  
Friday afternoons.

*Clayton-le-Moors* (c/o Town Hall)  
Alternate Friday afternoons.

*Rishton* (108 High Street)  
Alternate Wednesday mornings.

*Child Welfare Clinics.* Those most conveniently situated for residents in Blackburn Rural District are held at:—

*Feniscowles* (Methodist Church room).  
Alternate Tuesday afternoons.

*Whalley* (Methodist School).  
Every Monday Afternoon.

*Darwen* (Civic Health Centre, Union Street).  
Monday and Thursday afternoons.

*Clayton-le-Moors* (c/o Town Hall).  
Alternate Wednesday afternoons.

*Church* (Baptist School, Ernest Street).  
Thursday afternoons.

(Advice can also be obtained on pre-school children as well as school children at the Clinic held on the first Wednesday afternoon in each month in the County Council Clinic, Lord Street, Blackburn.)

*Minor Ailment Clinics.* Those most conveniently situated for residents in Blackburn Rural District are held at:—

*Lord Street, Blackburn.*  
1st Wednesday each month, 2 p.m.

*Rishton* (108 High Street).  
Monday and Friday mornings.

*Oswaldtwistle* (119 Union Road).  
Monday and Thursday mornings.

*Darwen* (Civic Health Centre, Union Street).  
Monday to Friday mornings and afternoons.

All schools are regularly inspected by a Medical Officer. War-time arrears of inspections are being rapidly wiped out by a special effort.

Immunisations are carried out at the Child Welfare Clinics and at Lord Street, Blackburn, on the first Wednesday in the month from 2 p.m.

Orthopaedic, Ophthalmic, U.V.R. (Artificial sunlight), Ear, Nose and Throat, Child Guidance, examinations and treatments—children are first seen at Child Welfare or School (Minor Ailments) Clinics or at School Inspections, and the appropriate arrangements are made.

*Dental Clinics.* Normally these are held at Lord Street, Blackburn, in the mornings and afternoons of the first Tuesday in the month, but are temporarily suspended for lack of a Dental Officer.

*District Nurses:*

Miss E. Blundell, 10 Jersey Street, Livesey. Tel. Blackburn 49415.

Miss F. I. Grundy, District Nurses Home, Branch Road, Mellor. Tel. Mellor 313.

Miss E. Ridgway, 761 Whalley New Road, Blackburn. Tel. Blackburn 48201.

(The District Nurses from Darwen cover Tockholes, Yate and Pickup Bank.)

*Midwives:*

Miss F. I. Grundy (for address and 'phone No. see above).

Miss E. Ridgway (for address and 'phone No. see above).

(The Midwives from Darwen cover Tockholes, Yate and Pickup Bank and Livesey.)

*Day Nurseries.* Applications for admission may be made by letter to the Divisional Medical Officer at 19, St. James' Street, Accrington. It must be added that all the nurseries have long waiting lists.

*Hospital Services.* The County Council has NO control over hospitals, these are administered by the Regional Hospital Board. In the case of admission to Maternity Hospitals and Homes, the demand is so great that as a rule only those having their first baby or those who have unsuitable home circumstances, or some medical reason making hospital delivery essential are accepted. The Hospital Authorities have arranged to ask the Divisional Medical Officer for reports on these points and on the report, the Hospital Authority agrees to accept or decline to book an expectant mother. The Divisional Medical Officer is informed as to the facts by the health visitors and

midwives, and from his knowledge of the medical facts, whether from his own or his assistants' examination at Ante-Natal Clinics, or reports received from the patients' own doctor.

Much confusion exists as to hospital accommodation for chronic cases of illness often in elderly people. The County Council has NO control over such admission; this is governed by the Regional Hospital Board. It has been arranged that with the aid of a report from a Health Visitor the Divisional Medical Officer will advise the hospital authority as to the degree of urgency in cases of chronic sickness.

The position as regards admission to hospitals for those with mental illness or mental defect is similar. It must be remembered that hospital services are operating under very great difficulties as to staff and buildings in the present abnormal circumstances.

*Home Helps.* The County Council employs a whole-time Supervisor of Home Helps and a number of part-time Helps have been recruited. When a Home Help is required it is necessary to make application to the Divisional Health Office. This service is not a free service but charges are made according to the circumstances of the applicant.

*Hostels for Elderly People.* Elderly persons who are in need of care and attention within the meaning of the National Assistance Act can be provided with residential accommodation at a charge not exceeding 52/6d. per week, the actual charge being based on the applicant's circumstances. This service is as yet only in its infancy but active steps are being taken to provide for accommodation. Application should be made to the Divisional Health Office. During the year adaptations to a large house in the area were being carried out to make it fit for use as a hostel for elderly people.

*Blind Persons Act.* Those who wish to apply for Blind Pensions can secure a specialist examination.

*Mental Health.* The Division has two Duly Authorised Officers who make arrangements for the removal of persons suffering from mental illness, to suitable hospitals. Arrangements are made through the patient's own doctor.

# STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1950.

## Vital Statistics for the Year 1950.

(Population—Registrar-General's Estimate, mid-1950: 13,330)

	Total	Males	Females
Live Births—Legitimate .....	100 ...	47 ...	53
Illegitimate .....	4 ...	3 ...	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total .....	104 ...	50 ...	54
Still Births .....	4 ...	3 ...	1
Deaths .....	154 ...	83 ...	71

	Blackburn R.D.C.	England & Wales
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population, mid-1950 .....	9.1	15.8
Still Births per 1,000 of estimated Population .....	0.37	0.37
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population .....	11.4	11.6

### Deaths from puerperal causes—

Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis .....	1
Other maternal causes .....	Nil
Total Maternal mortality .....	1
Death rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births .....	9.26

### Death rate of infants under one year of age—

All infants per 1,000 live births .....	19
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .....	20
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .....	26
Deaths from Measles (all ages) .....	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) .....	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) .....	Nil

# VITAL STATISTICS (continued)

Year —	Per 1,000 of estimated population			Maternal Mortality rate		
	Live birth rate	Death-rate from		Per 1,000 of live births	Rate of deaths under one-year per 1,000 live births	
		Crude death rate	Death-rate from tuberculosis of the respiratory system		Per 1,000 total (live and still) births	Rate of deaths under one-year per 1,000 live births
Mean of 5 years, 1945—1949 ...	11.8 ...	11.0 ...	0.27 ...	1.83 ...	2.70 ...	2.63 ...
1949 .....	11.0 ...	10.5 ...	0.23 ...	1.88 ...	Nil ...	Nil ...
1950 .....	†7.8 ...	*11.6 ...	0.15 ...	— ...	9.62 ...	9.26 ...
Increase or decrease in 1950 on:						
5 years' average, 1945—1949	—4.0 ...	+0.6 ...	—0.12 ...	— ...	+6.92 ...	+6.63 ...
Previous year	—3.2 ...	+1.1 ...	—0.08 ...	— ...	+9.62 ...	+9.26 ...
*1950 adjusted death-rate (comparability factor, 0.99)	= 11.4 per 1,000					
†1950	" " 1.17 = 9.1 per 1,000					

# CAUSES OF DEATH.

Causes of Death							Males	Females	Total
All Causes ... ..							83	71	154
1.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...						1	1	2
2.	Other Tuberculosis Diseases ... ..						3	—	3
3.	Syphilitic Diseases ... ..						—	—	—
4.	Diphtheria ... ..						—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough ... ..						—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections ... ..						—	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis ... ..						—	—	—
8.	Measles ... ..						—	—	—
9.	Other infective diseases ... ..						2	—	2
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach ... ..						3	2	5
11.	„ „ lung ... ..						3	—	3
12.	„ „ breast ... ..						—	3	3
13.	„ „ uterus ... ..						—	—	—
14.	„ „ others ... ..						7	8	15
15.	Leukaemia ... ..						—	—	—
16.	Diabetes ... ..						—	3	3
17.	Lesions of Nervous System ... ..						11	18	29
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina ... ..						8	3	11
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease ... ..						2	2	4
20.	Other Heart Diseases ... ..						16	12	28
21.	Other Circulatory Diseases ... ..						2	2	4
22.	Influenza ... ..						1	2	3
23.	Pneumonia ... ..						5	2	7
24.	Bronchitis ... ..						4	3	7
25.	Other respiratory Diseases ... ..						—	—	—
26.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ... ..						1	—	1
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea ... ..						1	1	2
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis ... ..						2	—	2
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..						1	—	1
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortions ... ..						—	1	1
31.	Congenital Malformations ... ..						1	1	2
32.	Other Diseases ... ..						3	7	10
33.	Motor vehicle accidents ... ..						1	—	1
34.	All other accidents ... ..						3	—	3
35.	Suicide ... ..						2	—	2
36.	Homicide ... ..						—	—	—



# NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease	Total cases at Under										65 and over	Cases admitted to Hospital
	all ages	1	1-2	2-4	4-10	10-15	15-25	25-45	45-65			
Smallpox .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever .....	14	—	—	3	4	6	1	—	—	—	7	—
Measles .....	77	—	16	19	41	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .....	17	2	5	3	5	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia .....	18	—	—	—	2	3	7	3	—	3	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—
Erysipelas .....	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	—	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Dysentery .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Food poisoning .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals .....	135	2	21	26	52	10	9	7	5	3	9	

# Tuberculosis.

## NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1950.

Age Periods Years	New Cases				Deaths			
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10 .....	—	I	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25 .....	—	—	—	I	—	—	—	I
25—35 .....	—	—	I	—	—	—	2	—
35—45 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	I	—
45—55 .....	I	I	—	—	—	I	—	—
55—65 .....	I	2	—	—	2	I	—	—
65 and upwards ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals .....	2	4	I	I	2	2	3	I
	}		}		}		}	
	6		2		4		4	

No cases of Tuberculosis which had not been notified came to light.

## WATER SUPPLIES.

PARISH.	From Public Mains				From Private Supplies	
	Direct to houses		By means of standpipe		e.g. wells, springs, etc.	
	No. of dwelling-houses	No. of population	No. of dwelling-houses	No. of population	No. of dwelling-houses	No. of population
1. Balderstone .....	76	333	—	—	42	151
2. Billington .....	606	2510	—	—	55	229
3. Clayton-le-Dale ...	173	554	—	—	32	100
4. Dinckley .....	22	80	—	—	3	16
5. Eccleshill .....	80	291	—	—	22	87
6. Livesey .....	747	2111	—	—	80	334
7. Mellor .....	276	1063	23	96	134	542
8. Osbaldeston .....	49	131	—	—	23	85
9. Pleasington .....	120	449	—	—	52	198
10. Ramsgreave .....	210	583	—	—	70	309
11. Salesbury .....	110	343	—	—	18	70
12. Tockholes .....	—	—	—	—	142	496
13. Wilpshire .....	331	1603	—	—	31	120
14. Yate and Pickup Bank ...	30	130	—	—	77	316
Total—						
Whole District ...	2830	10181	23	96	781	3053

### New Housing.

#### Waiting List.

Applicants to 31st December, 1950 ... .. 297

#### Local Authority Houses.

Position at 1st January, 1950

Prewar—80

Postwar—56

Post War Housing Programme, Total Proposed Houses 273

Houses erected by Local Authority during 1950 ... .. 59

Houses under construction by Local Authority at end of 1950 ... .. 54

#### Houses erected by private enterprise.

Post war to January, 1950 ... .. 28

Completed during 1950 ... .. 5

42 WELLINGTON ST., (St. John's),  
BLACKBURN.

September, 1951.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1950.

Little progress has been made with regard to the repair of unfit houses and owing to the shortage of building labour it has only been possible to maintain houses wind and watertight.

The public cleansing services have been maintained during the year in spite of the difficulty in obtaining suitable labour. Although market prices for salvage were at a low level during most of the year, increased tonnage disposed of resulted in a substantial increase in revenue.

The only major change in legislation was the coming into operation of the Pests Act 1949. The proper enforcement of this Act creates a difficult problem as there is already too much work to be carried out by one Sanitary Inspector.

I am grateful to the officials and staff for the help I have received throughout the year, and to the Chairman of the Council, the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their encouragement and consideration.

Yours faithfully,

G. R. WHITE.

*Senior Sanitary Inspector.*

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### Water Supplies.

Routine sampling of water from public mains is carried out and during the year 12 such samples were obtained, 8 of these were quite satisfactory. 2 samples showed faecal contamination and the cause of this was found to be damage to the collecting reservoirs during heavy rains. 2 samples from a private water company were unsatisfactory; part of the supply in this company's mains comes from a borehole of variable quality. A new public main is being laid in this area.

19 samples of drinking water were taken from private supplies and of these 6 were found to be satisfactory. 10 of the unsatisfactory samples were taken from a stream in an attempt to find the source of contamination. Ultimately arrangements had to be made by the owner for a continuous chlorination of the supply.

### Drainage and Sewerage.

There are seven separate Sewage Disposal works in the area serving the major parts of the parishes of Livesey, Billington, Pleasington and Wilpshire and parts of Salesbury, Clayton-le-Dale, Yate Bank and Balderstone. Langho Colony is also served by these works. The method of treatment adopted is by preliminary sedimentation, septic tanks and sprinkler filtration or by land irrigation.

A comprehensive scheme for extensions and new sewage disposal works costing £150,000 which was prepared by the Council's Consultant Engineer has been approved in principle by the Council. The Engineer has prepared a scheme for the sewerage of Copster Green and for the construction of a new sewage disposal works for the treatment of sewage from Billington, Copster Green, Langho, Langho Colony and part of Wilpshire. The proposals include the provision of sewers for 40 new houses at Brockhall Institution and part of the hospital buildings. The estimated cost of this scheme is now £66,000.

### Public Cleansing Service.

Public Cleansing is one of the most important services administered by a Rural Authority. The collection and disposal of refuse and nightsoil and the sorting of salvage is hard and uncongenial work. The field of recruitment of men in this region is restricted owing to the fact that there are more jobs available in industry than labour to fill them. In spite of this it has been possible to maintain and improve on the cleansing service during 1950. The 'old hands' on the staff have been chiefly responsible for keeping the service working smoothly with very little complaint. A salvage incentive bonus awarded by the Council has also influenced the workmen to stick to their jobs.

## Refuse Collection.

The Council have two Dennis, Side Loading Refuse collectors in almost new condition and the work of the department is assisted by a new Fordson Thames Truck. Cleansing employees, being exposed to all weathers, are provided with two sets of overalls each year.

The Council provide a fortnightly collection of house refuse to almost all homes in the area. A few contracts with private collectors are still in operation in scattered localities where the bad condition of roads prohibit the use of motor vehicles. In the last Annual Report reference was made to the need for a weekly collection of house refuse, particularly in the urbanised areas of Cherry Tree, Feniscowles and Ramsgreave, where in many cases, there are no facilities for the burying of putrescible matter. Wherever there is an accumulation of refuse there are offensive smells and flies abound. The contents of ashbins quickly decompose during summer months and a fortnightly collection creates offensive accumulations on the back doorsteps of every home. In the colder months, when fires are in use the contents of ashbins are almost wholly ashes and most bins weigh over a hundredweight each. The poor condition of coal supplied to householders nowadays, provides a greater ash content and this is noticeable in the ever increasing use of wooden boxes and buckets, which stand beside the ashbins for emptying.

More frequent collections combined with the provision of smaller receptacles, would give the public a better service and make the work of the cleansing staff much lighter. In spite of rising costs and wages, improvements and economies in the cleansing service have maintained the rate charge in the region of an 11d. rate. The increased tonnage and prices for salvage collected, are yielding a substantial revenue which could be used to make improvements in the service.

## Refuse Disposal.

For a number of years the refuse was disposed of by crude dumping in several disused quarries all of which became infested by insects and rats. There are now only 2 refuse tips in use and a system of controlled tipping was commenced. Obtaining covering material for the tips is a constant source of worry and the hand loading of soil and ashes is slow and hard work. Soil in sufficient quantities is at times almost unobtainable, but ashes are collected from factory furnaces in the area.

## Nightsoil Collection and Disposal.

Collection of nightsoil is carried out weekly from over 600 houses scattered throughout the whole of the area, and disposal has been effected by spreading over waste moorland. A lagoon was made on a farm where nightsoil is composted with factory flue dust and straw, but efforts to obtain lagoons in other villages have yielded no results.



Nightsoil is collected in a wooden tank in the body of a refuse collection vehicle and frequent complaints are made of the nuisance from smell and splashing. The depot where the wagon is kept also has an unpleasant odour. The Council is being asked to consider the purchase of a cesspool emptying machine, with a nightsoil attachment, so that the Council may undertake to empty cesspools and septic tanks, and also provide a more hygienic system of pail closet emptying. The baffles in the tank of this type of vehicle and the force of the vacuum for suction, disintegrates nightsoil so that it can be disposed of through the sewers without causing blockages.

### **Salvaged Materials.**

Salvage helped to win the war and it is required now to play its part in restoring national economy, by providing a much wanted source of raw material. The scope of this Council's contribution can be judged by the figures given in the salvage tables. Almost 150 tons of salvage was disposed of during the year.

There are 80 communal bins in various parts of the district for the collection of kitchen waste. From a public health aspect one has mixed feelings about the desirability of communal bins, although there is a need for the salvage of all available feeding stuffs at the present time. It has, however, one good feature, it reduces the amount of putrescible matter in dustbins and on the tips, and it is removed weekly.

One does not usually associate revenue with the Public Health Department, but salvage is providing a valuable contribution towards the cost of Public Cleansing. During the Financial Year of 1950/51, the cost of Public Cleansing was about £5,000 and the revenue from salvage reduced this figure by £1,400 to a net cost of £3,600. (The revenue from January to December, 1950, was almost £1,000.) Rising costs are producing increased prices for salvage and it is likely that during 1951 revenue from salvage will be in the region of £2,500.

Notwithstanding the efforts of the Cleansing Staff to increase the amount of collection, there is still far too much valuable waste materials put into the dustbins which cannot be recovered. One would think the publicity given to the need for salvage during the last few years was sufficient to make a lasting impression and bring to an end the mixing and destruction of paper, etc., with refuse. It is a fact that with a 100% co-operation from householders, the Public Cleansing Service could be run in this area without cost to the rates.

### **Provision of Dustbins.**

Dustbins of a heavy pattern are purchased by the Council in bulk and are resold to owners or householders in the area. It is more than likely that within a few years the provision of dustbins will be an obligation on the Local Authority and the cost will be borne by

the general rate. Such a scheme is in operation in many areas and costs less than a penny rate.

## RODENT CONTROL.

A Rodent Operative is employed on search for rats and treatment of infestations found. The number of infestations found during the year was as under:—

Sewage disposal works .....	19
Refuse tips .....	11
Factories .....	13
Farms .....	1
Shops .....	—
Other Business Premises .....	1
Private Dwelling Houses .....	53
	<hr/>
Total Infestations .....	98
	<hr/>

The banks of the Leeds and Liverpool canal had again become badly infested and a further treatment was carried out. 2 refuse tips were each treated twice and infestation kept to a minimum.

Two treatments of the Council's sewers and sewage works were carried out. The number of prebait takes are much less than in 1949 and it will be seen from the figures below that the number of bait takes are much less in the summer months.

### *First half year*

(Zinc Phosphide and Sausage Rusk)

268 manholes baited.

103 manholes showing prebait take.

12 manholes showing complete take.

### *Second half year*

(Arsenic and Bread Mash)

280 manholes baited.

64 manholes showing prebait take.

11 manholes showing complete take.

It was found in 1948, 1949 and 1950 that Cherry Tree is the only locality where sewers are badly infested. This is no doubt caused by the densely populated area, together with industrial buildings and the proximity of the canal. One's first reactions to this infestation is to carry out more frequent treatments at Cherry Tree, but it is possible that more frequent poisoning would make the rats poison conscious and so destroy any gradual reduction or elimination by twice yearly treatments.

In order to encourage the notification of rat infestations by owners or occupiers of private dwellings, the Council provide a free service and the Ministry of Agriculture reimburse 50% of the cost. A charge covering the whole of the cost plus 10% for administrative purposes was made for the work done on business premises. The Ministry of Agriculture contributes a 50% grant towards the cost of sewer treatment.

### **TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.**

The demand for new houses throughout the country is steadily increasing and many families becoming tired of living with relatives or in rooms are setting up homes in disused bus bodies, caravans and huts.

A survey of moveable dwellings was made during 1949 and it was found that there were 104 moveable dwellings in the area and only 9 of these were licenced. Some of these dwellings were erected for occasional weekend use, but quite a number are now being occupied permanently. A sub-committee of the Health Committee was formed to consider the licencing or enforcement of removal of all moveable dwellings in the area.

### **SANITARY ACCOMMODATION AT SCHOOLS.**

A survey of all schools in the district was carried out during the year 1949. It was found that although 11 out of 12 schools had a piped supply of water only 6 had water closets and that in one case privies were still in use. At another school trough closets were provided and in four others pail closets were in use. The sanitary conveniences at some schools were found to be in a dilapidated condition and the fabric of some school buildings was in need of repair.

Although the managers of 2 schools were asked to make improvements to the sanitary accommodation, this work was not put in hand during 1950. It is true to say that improvements have been planned at a number of schools, but such are long term programmes which will, in all probability, take ten or more years to materialise.

It is of paramount importance that all schools should have sanitary conveniences and washing facilities as near perfection as possible, as it is during the years a child attends school that he or she can be trained and guided into forming good habits.

### **SMOKE ABATEMENT.**

There are 12 factory chimneys in the area and during the year 18 observations were taken. In 12 of these observations the amount of smoke emitted was excessive and although factory managements were approached any improvements made were of a temporary nature.

In 1949 an approach was made by the Council to the Ministry of Fuel and Power for observations on a proposal to apply for byelaw

approval. The Ministry stated that they were not prepared to sponsor an application. A similar communication was addressed to the Ministry of Health but the Council were asked to consider whether the time for implementing byelaws was opportune having regard to the uncertainty of supply of suitable fuels, the installation of suitable equipment and adding to the difficulties of industry.

The Regional Inspector of the Ministry of Fuel and Power was asked to investigate the causes of flagrant emission of smoke from several factories in the area, and although visits were made and recommendations given, no improvement was seen.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### Milk Supply.

The responsibility for the supervision of Milk Production passed from the purview of Local Authorities to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries on the 1st October, 1949.

The retail distribution of milk still remains under local control and as most sampling is now carried out at commercial depots, it was decided that the Council, must, in the interest of the consumers, sample milk from the smaller producer retailers who sell little or no milk to commercial depots. Milk sampling from retailers was commenced during the year, but this was found to be unsatisfactory for two reasons. Firstly, whereas the sampling was done at farms prior to 1949, it was now necessary to sample from vehicles in the streets and owing to the variations in times of delivery, much time was wasted and many miles travelled to find the roundsmen. Secondly, having found the roundsman, he was often unable to say with certainty, which was mornings or evenings milk.

Sampling of milk for biological examination was continued, and in 3 cases positive samples were reported on. Here again milk sampling for biological examination under the new control of milk production, is most unsatisfactory. It was possible, when the Council had control of milk production, to take bulk samples of milk at the farm, but with biological sampling from roundsman's vehicles it is more than likely that a sample of bottled milk will be from only cow in the herd.

41 samples of milk were taken from producer retailers and submitted for the Methylene Blue Reductase test. 35 were completely satisfactory, the remaining 6 failed to pass the test.

It is surprising to note that the standard of the vehicles used for milk distribution is rapidly deteriorating. Not many years ago the milk float was predominant and the owner took a pride in the grooming of the animal and in polishing the brasses on the vehicle.



These were gradually replaced by the motor van but in this last year or two, the vans are quickly disappearing from the streets and milk is being delivered in any old farm vehicle from tractors with trailers to private cars. In most cases the vehicles have no name and address displayed on them and the use of private cars for the retail of loose milk, is to be deprecated: These methods of milk distribution compare very unfavourably with the marked improvements in the vehicles used by the Ice Cream Trade.

### Ice Cream.

There is 1 manufacturer and 26 retailers' permits on the Council's register. The manufacturer prepares a cold mix product.

31 samples of ice cream were taken during the year, 26 of which were satisfactory. The results were as follows:—

		Producers Samples	Retailers Samples	
Grade I	.....	I	20	Satisfactory
Grade II	.....	—	5	
<hr/>				
Grade III	.....	—	3	Unsatisfactory
Grade IV	.....	I	1	

In all cases where the results were unsatisfactory, visits were made to the premises and advice given in the methods of serving and in the cleansing of utensils. In most cases repeat samples were satisfactory.

### Meat Inspection.

Every effort was made to inspect all the animals slaughtered within the district immediately after slaughter. Most of these were killed at a licenced Slaughterhouse which is attached to the farm buildings of an Institution within the District. Numbers of pigs are slaughtered occasionally under Ministry of Food licences at various farms and other premises.

It was not necessary to seize any articles of food, any which were found to be diseased or unsound were readily surrendered by the owners.

Regular inspections were carried out at Butchers' premises.

The number of animals inspected were as follows: —

<i>Beasts</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
11	35	82	29

## *Carcases Inspected and Condemned.*

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed .....	— ...	11 ...	35 ...	82 ...	29
Number inspected .....	— ...	11 ...	35 ...	82 ...	29

### *All diseases except Tuberculosis.*

#### Whole carcasses

Condemned .....	— ...	— ...	— ...	1 ...	1
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Carcases of which  
some part or organ  
was condemned ... — ... 6 ... 1 ... 6 ... 1

Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ... — ...	54.5% ...	2.8% ...	8.5% ...	6.9%
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### *Tuberculosis only.*

#### Whole carcasses

condemned .....	— ...	— ...	— ...	— ...	1
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Carcases of which  
some part or organ  
was condemned ... — ... 4 ... — ... — ... 4

Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis .....	— 36.3% ...	— ...	— ...	17.2%
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### **Other Food preparing premises.**

Priority of inspections has always been given to the preparation and handling of Meat, Ice Cream and Milk and few inspections could be made to restaurant kitchens, wayside cafes and other food premises. The Council have adopted byelaws to secure 'sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food' and these byelaws came into force in 1950.



**NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS MADE DURING  
THE YEAR IN CONNECTION WITH SANITARY  
AND OTHER WORK.**

Inspections under the Public Health Act ... ..	390
Inspections under the Housing Act ... ..	23
Inspections and revisits to Moveable Dwellings ... ..	89
Visits to Infectious Disease Cases ... ..	48
Rooms Disinfected ... ..	35
Inspections of Cowsheds and Dairies ... ..	67
Inspections of Slaughter Houses ... ..	39
Inspections of Meat Shops ... ..	10
Inspections of Bakehouses ... ..	16
Inspections of Provisions Shops ... ..	18
Inspections of Fried Fish Shops ... ..	7
Inspections of Ice Cream Premises ... ..	79
Inspections of Restaurant Kitchens ... ..	37
Visits to Street Venders and Hawkers ... ..	2
Inspections of Factories (other than Bakehouses) ... ..	38
Inspections of Schools ... ..	3
Inspections in connection with Scavenging Schemes ... ..	3342
Inspections of Drains ... ..	206
Inspections in connection with Water Supplies ... ..	73
Samples of Water Taken for Analysis ... ..	33
Inspections under Petroleum Acts ... ..	21
Inspections in connection with rodent control ... ..	52
Smoke Observations ... ..	18
Other Visits interviewing owners, etc. ... ..	179
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Total ... ..	4825
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## HOUSING INSPECTIONS.

Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	256
Number of inspections made for the purpose .....	370
Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations. 1925 to 1932 .....	16
Number of inspections made for the purpose .....	23
Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	3
Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	119

Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers .....	78
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Action of statutory powers during the year:—

(a) Proceedings under section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .....	5
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners .....	5
(b) By local authority in default of owners .....	Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .....	39
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners .....	—
(b) By local authority in default of owners .....	39

Housing Act, 1936, Part IV. Overcrowding:—

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year .....	7
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein .....	15
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein .....	42
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .....	Nil

## RURAL HOUSING SURVEY.

The survey of working class dwellings was completed in 1948 and the following are the complete figures for the survey:—

No. of inhabited houses (all classes)					
at 31st December, 1947	...	...	...	...	3509
No. of working-class houses	...	...	...	...	2673
					% of total insp-ed.
No. of working-class houses:—					
1. fit in all respects	.....	295			11.04
2. requiring minor repairs	.....	847			31.69
3. requiring structural alteration	.....	737			27.57
4. occupied by agricultural workers and requiring structural alteration	...	343			12.83
5. unfit for habitation	.....	451			16.87
No. of working-class houses about which free circulation of air is retarded	...	...	...	...	462
No. with inadequate through or cross ventilation	...	...	...	...	77
No. which are badly lighted	...	...	...	...	777
No. with insufficient height in the rooms	...	...	...	...	443
No. not connected to a Public Sewer	...	...	...	...	834
No. not having a fresh water closet	...	...	...	...	807
No. without sufficient washing accommodation	...	...	...	...	673
No. without sufficient cooking accommodation	...	...	...	...	109
No. without an adequate pantry	...	...	...	...	1712
No. with insanitary or defective sink	...	...	...	...	286
No. not having a Public water supply laid on	...	...	...	...	505
No. not having a piped supply of hot water	...	...	...	...	1061
No. not having a fixed bath	...	...	...	...	1357
No. being in an unsatisfactory state of repair	...	...	...	...	842
No. showing dampness within the house	...	...	...	...	1485
No. not having an adequate system of artificial lighting	...	...	...	...	259
No. not having separate access from staircase or landing for each bedroom	...	...	...	...	304
No. of overcrowded houses (total, years 1945—1948)	...	...	...	...	25

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Privy Middens	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Pail Closets	...	...	.....	...	...	...	...	664
Ashpits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
No. of houses with Fresh Water Closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2833
No. of houses with Waste Water Closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	73

No. of houses with Moveable Ashbins	...	...	...	...	...	3275
Pail Closets converted into Fresh Water Closets						
with grant from the Council	...	...	...	...	...	5

### Public Cleansing.

The following figures summarise the amount of refuse collected by direct labour and contractors during the year:—

Visits to Premises	Pans Emptied	Bins Emptied	Loads	T. Estimated	C.	Q.
130,229	36,719	93,510	1,601	4066	5	2

### Salvage.

The following weights of salvaged materials were collected and sold during the year:—

Material	Quantity				Value.		
	T.	C.	Q.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Paper	86	3	0	0	607	8	1
Kitchen Waste	56	1	1	0	152	2	0
Textiles	3	15	1	4	76	14	2
Copper		2	1	10	7	13	10
Brass and Zinc		1	3	5	4	1	10
Aluminium		2	0	27	3	3	10
Lead		2	3	12	12	16	5
Bottles and Jars	2	8	0	24	15	0	0
Carriage on Paper					43	1	6
Carriage on Kitchen Waste					28	0	8
Total	148	16	3	26	950	2	4

Profit on Dustbins for the year	12	1	11
Profit on Sanitary Pails	17	3	
	£963	1	6

# **FACTORIES ACT, 1937.**

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1950 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF BLACKBURN IN THE COUNTY OF LANCASTER.**

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

### **1.—INSPECTIONS** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	19	13	4		1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies						
(a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order 1938 ... ..	2	49	41	11		2
(b) Others... ..	3	3				3
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises) ... ..	4					4
<b>TOTAL ... ..</b>		<b>71</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>15</b>		

### **2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND**

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ... ..	5	3	3		1		5
Overcrowding (S.2) ... ..	6						6
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	7						7
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	8						8
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	9	1	1				9
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(a) insufficient ... ..	10	7	6		3		10
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	11	4	4				11
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	12						12
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	13						13
<b>TOTAL ... ..</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>		<b>4</b>		<b>60</b>

